

*City of*



*Lumberton*

*Fire Department*

Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**WT Docket Number 02-55**

Dear Madame Secretary,

Rapid, reliable and safe communications are critical to our jobs as firefighters. But across the United States, public safety and commercial radio frequencies are intermingled and adjacent to one another, leading to interference that risks the lives of first responders and the citizens we protect.

Recognizing this, the FCC has promised action to resolve this interference to public safety operations. My organization, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, as part of a public/private coalition, has developed a comprehensive solution named the Consensus Plan.

The Consensus Plan will realign the current jumbled licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and wireless carriers. This will virtually eliminate public safety interference and provide additional spectrum to public safety. The Consensus Plan is the only proposed solution that meets the needs of public safety and that is comprehensive, funded, and technically proven.

Please solve this problem at its root by realigning the jumbled spectrum. I urge you to implement the Consensus Plan without delay. First responders - and the communities we protect - depend on it.

Sincerely,

Chief Mike Cox  
Lumberton Fire Department  
PO Box 924  
Lumberton, NC 28359-0924